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USDA United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry | 180 Canfield Street Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

File Code: 3400
Date: July 8, 2009

Mr. Sean Denniston
USDI National Park Service
Catoctin Mountain Park
6602 Foxville Road
Thurmont, MD 21788

Dear Sean:

On June 15, 2009, I conducted an aerial detection survey for gypsy moth-caused tree defoliation at Catoctin Mountain Park. As you already know, no defoliation was detected at, or in the vicinity of, your site.

It is difficult to quantify the impacts of this year's gypsy moth suppression project since gypsy moth populations have collapsed in your area primarily due to the fungal pathogen, *Entomophaga maimaiga*. This pathogen is usually prevailent during wet and cool Springs like the one that we just experienced. The impacts of *Entomophaga maimaiga* have been highly variable from year to year and are difficult to predict.

We will be conducting gypsy moth egg mass surveys this Fall in all the treatment areas. We would like your staff to conduct preliminary egg mass surveys in these areas and other areas of interest during late Summer.

Please contact me at 304-285-1555 by August 22, 2009, if you anticipate requesting financial assistance for gypsy moth control in 2010. Please call me if you have any questions regarding this aerial survey letter.

Sincerely,

Rodney L. Whiteman

RODNEY L. WHITEMAN
Forester
Morgantown Field Office

Cc: Jil Swearingin, CUE
Becky Loncosky, CMP
Robert Tatman, MDA
Tom Lupp, MDA
Robert Lueckel, MFO